

Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION SS-25

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FM AMEMBASSY JIDDA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3706

S E C R E T JIDDA 1571

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EXDIS

DEPT PASS ABU DHABI, KUWAIT TEHRAN

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: OCIP, TC (SHEIKH ZAID)

SUBJECT: POSSIBLE US VISIT BY UAE PRESIDENT SHEIKH ZAID

REF: STATE 70314

1. WE CONCUR, IN GENERAL, WITH OBSERVATIONS CONTAINED
PARAS TWO- THREE REFTEL, AND CAN READILY RECOGNIZE
ADVANTAGES CEMENTING UAE- US RELATIONS THROUGH PRESTIGIOUS
GESTURE INVITING GULF' S MOST DYNAMIC LEADER TO VISIT US.

2. IF MATTER IS HANDLED WITH DUE CONSIDERATION FOR
SAUDI SENSITIVITIES, BELIEVE POSITIVE BENEFITS WE ARE
SEEKING THROUGH ZAID VISIT COULD BE ACHIEVED WITHOUT
ADVERSE REACTION HERE. AS TO HSNFLINH, WE WOULD HOPE
FOLLOWING MIGHT BE TAKEN INTO CONSIDERATION:

3. TIMING: RELATIONS BETWEEN UAE AND SAUDI ARABIA ARE
AT PRESENT UNEASY BUT NOT TENSE. HOWEVER, IF THEY WERE
TO WORSEN, VISIT COULD SEEM TO SAUDIS FORM OF PARTIALITY
IN FAVOR OF ZAID AT EXPENSE OF OLD FRIEND FAISAL. AS
INSURANCE AGAINST THIS CONTINGENCY, SUGGEST ACTUAL INVITA-
TION BE ISSUED ONLY SIX WEEKS OR MONTH IN ADVANCE. WOULD
IT BE POSSIBLE, THUS, SIMPLY RESPOND TO ZAID AT THIS TIME
ON LINES FIRST SENTENCE PARA TWO, INDICATING IN PRINCIPLE
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US FAVORS NOTION OF ZAID VISIT BUT THAT DETERMINATION OF
PRECISE DATE WILL HAVE TO WAIT UNTIL LATER THIS YEAR.

4. TREATMENT: SAUDIS WILL BE WATCHING CAREFULLY TO
DETERMINE WHETHER ZAID IS GIVEN ANY GREATER KUDIOS THAN
KING FAISAL DURING LATTER' S VISIT MAY 1971. EVEN THOUGH
THIS IS FIRST TIP AS HEAD OF STATE TO US, WE WOULD
SUGGEST ZAID NOT RPT NOT BE GIVEN MORE THAN SINGLE
WHITE HOUSE CALL AND WHITE HOUSE LUNCHEON. WE RECOGNIZE
ZAID HAS HIS SENSITIVITIES TOO, AND THAT THESE HAVE TO
BE KEPT IN MIND, BUT WE DO FEEL ANY MORE ELABORATE
TREATMENT THAN FAISAL RECEIVED ON LAST VISIT COULD DO US
HARM HERE.

4. EXPLANATIONS: BELIEVE SAUDIS WOULD APPRECIATE
HEARING CAREFUL EXPLANATION IN ADVANCE OF OUR REASONS
FOR SETTING UP VISIT, STRESSING PARTICULARLY OUR BELIEF
STRONG USG- UAE TIES IN LONG RUN ARE MUCH IN SAUDI
INTEREST AND THAT WE, AS WELL AS SAG, HAVE STRONG DESIRE
ENCOURAGE UAE AND ITS LEADERS ON STEADY, STATESMANLIKE
COURSE. WE COULD MENTION ALSO THAT WITH REGARD BOUNDARY
DISPUTE WE FEEL WISEST COURSE WOULD BE FOR US REFRAIN
FROM MAKING SPECIFIC PROPOSALS BUT AFFIRM OUR OVERALL
STAND IN FAVOR FURTHER NEGOTIATIONS AND FLEXIBILITY
AMONG PARTIES. AFTER VISIT HAS TAKEN PLACE WE SHOULD
GIVE SAUDIS AS FRANK A RUNDOWN AS POSSIBLE ON WHAT
WAS DISCUSSED.
THACHER

NOTE BY OCT: JIDDA 1571 NOT PASSED ABOVE.

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